

ASK WAGE CUT

One Hundred and One Western
Rail Lines Plead.

All Employees Except Train
Workers Affected.

WAGES ABOVE OTHER LABOR

Attorneys for Roads Would
Have Pre-War Schedules.

Rail Labor Board Told: Mini-
mum Not Asked.

Chicago, March 7.—Railroads of the country today requested the United States railway labor board to again slash wages of their employees. Cuts ranging from 4 to 27 cents per hour for employees on an hourly basis and from \$10.02 to \$14.28 per month for those on a monthly basis, were asked of the board.

Practically all railway employees except those in train service are affected. Two hundred and five railroads and twenty-five unions are involved in the wage hearing before the board. Some of the roads, in hands of receivers have asked for separate hearings. A few unions are seeking wage increases for the employees. The ship crafts, it is understood, will make such a plea.

Say Wages Higher.

"The railroads are not asking for the low level of pre-war wages," said John W. Higgins, executive secretary of the Association of Western Railways, who made the opening presentation of the roads today, filing an immense amount of incriminating evidence. For track and common labor, unskilled work, the railroads asked that they be authorized to pay the prevailing rates for such labor in the locality of employment.

Mr. Higgins presented voluminous data to show that railroad wages were uniformly higher than those paid in similar industries.

The survey proposed by the roads covered 2,227 industries in twenty-eight western states. Of the 218,892 employees of all classes in comparable industries, 247,846 or 77.22 per cent were getting lower wages in December, 1921, than the railroads were paying for similar work.

Pay More Than 90 Per Cent.

The investigation disclosed, according to the railroads' figures, that in Arkansas, Arizona, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi and Missouri, more than 90 per cent of other industries are paid less than railroad wages.

The railroads, Mr. Higgins contended, are being obliged to pay higher rates than in outside industries for similar work and, therefore, are "under a great disadvantage which should, in a fair case, be taken into consideration."

"The board should not compel the roads to continue this disability," he declared. "It places the railroads in the embarrassing position of fixing rates for manufacturers and the public."

The controversy before the board may require considerable time. Mr. Higgins is representing 10 western roads, John W. Wells, the easterner and W. A. Northcott, the southerner. The cases will be held in the following order: Ship crafts, maintenance of way, clerks, signal men, dispatchers, firemen and others and telegraphers.

COURT APPOINTS HUNT

Will Take Testimony in Case Against
Bank Guaranty Fund.

The supreme court today appointed C. N. Hunt of Concordia as commissioner to take testimony and make findings of fact and conclusions of law in the certificate of deposit case against the bank guaranty fund by the Farmers' & Merchants' State bank of Clinton. The bank has a claim of \$20,000.

Hunt served as commissioner in former cases involving responsibility of the bank and the guaranty fund for payment of certificates of deposit issued by the defunct Citizens' State bank of Salina. His findings were against petitioners.

KANSAS WHEAT IS BETTER

Increased Moisture Greatly Aids All
Middle West Crops.

Washington, March 7.—Increased moisture has improved the conditions of winter wheat in Kansas, while a lack of it has resulted in a poor condition of the crop in parts of Nebraska, Colorado and New Mexico. The department of agriculture reported today in its crop review for the last half of February.

In Illinois, Indiana and Ohio some damage was reported from alternate freezing and thawing. Condition of winter rye was said to be generally favorable in the central states.

7 JUMP FROM SECOND STORY.

Firemen Could Not Reach Kansas
City House in Time—One Dies.

Kansas City, Mo., March 7.—Before firemen could send for a life net, seven persons were forced to jump from the upper stories of a burning rooming house early today. One died and injuries a few hours later and four others were seriously hurt, two probably fatally.

Miss Louisa Frye, 37, who died, suffered from burns about the body and internal injuries. She jumped from a second story window.

Those injured were Mervin Ketterer, 22, sprained back; Mrs. Jeanette Ketterer, 22, his wife, broken arm and possible internal injury; W. C. Frye, 40, compound fracture of both legs, fractured jaw; Adam Sturm, 44, sprained back.

The fire started from an explosion in a grocery store which was under the rooming house.

Lathers Cut Own Scale

Parsons, Kan., March 7.—Lathers today announced a cut of 11 per cent in their schedule. Effective seven days in their schedule. Effective seven days in their schedule. Effective seven days in their schedule.

The WEATHER

FORECAST FOR KANSAS.

Fair tonight and Wednesday, increasing cloudiness. Warmer tonight and to live, northeastern and north central portions of the state. This moisture was needed in north central Kansas as it received only a light snow recently.

WEDNESDAY WILL BE CLOUDY

No Cold Weather or Moisture in Sight, Says Meteorologist Flora.

TODAY'S TEMPERATURES:
7 o'clock, 30; 11 o'clock, 34;
8 o'clock, 33; 12 o'clock, 39;
9 o'clock, 33; 1 o'clock, 43;
10 o'clock, 35; 2 o'clock, 42.

Shippers' Forecast:
Protect all thirty-six hour shipments north against a temperature of 25 degrees. West 20, east and south 32.

Although the sunshiny weather which occurred today will disappear Wednesday and cloudiness will prevail, there is no chance for any fall of moisture in Topeka, says Meteorologist Flora. There was no extreme weather in the United States today. The snow which fell in Kansas during the last twenty-four hours was confined to the northeastern and north central portions of the state. This moisture was needed in north central Kansas as it received only a light snow recently.

BURST KILLS FIVE

Ten Others Injured in Street
Railway Tank Explosion.

Wrecks 20 Feet of Brick Wall
in Kansas City Plant.

Kansas City, March 7.—Five men were killed and ten injured when a compressed air tank at the Kansas City railway company's barn at Ninth street and Brighton avenue exploded this morning, tearing out twenty feet of brick wall of the plant and derailing many street cars standing on nearby tracks.

The dead were decapitated. They are employees of the street railway company. Identified dead:

Earl Haynes, 30; Clarence Legate, 29; Frank Baumgardner, 35; Omar Hly, 22; J. P. Coleman.

The following is a list of the injured: Harry Bowman, 50, not expected to live; Charles W. Legate, 29, injured; Fred Bagnapp, 50, injured; Alex Campbell, 50, injured; William Hatcher, 40, minor injuries; Robert Mabry, 38, minor injuries; Joseph Rogers, 50, injured; Albert H. Barnhart, 38, injuries slight; Arthur Dinsinger, injuries slight.

The injured were all employed at the plant.

It is due to the heroism of A. E. Campbell, who, bleeding and mangled, held the air tank as it was being carried by a street car, that the loss of life was not greater.

Campbell, according to fellow workmen, saw that the air tank was carrying a pressure far beyond its capacity a few seconds before the blast.

He dashed to the tank and cord and clung to it. Three long blasts were sounded which reduced the pressure in the tank. Then came the blast.

The tank flew into jagged bits of metal.

Campbell was blown thru a wall, thirty-five feet from the tank, and landed half buried beneath a pile of bricks.

PRaises INDUSTRIAL COURT

Miss Kathryn Albright Speaks Before
K. C. Republican Club.

Kansas City, Kan., March 7.—Miss Kathryn Albright of Topeka praised the industrial court law as one of the most courageous and progressive laws ever enacted by a state when she spoke before the Kansas City Republican club. She urged members of the club to become staunch partisans and to hold party principles above individual theories of government.

Miss Albright, who is a daughter of late Morton Albright, was one of the principal speakers at the "ladies' night" session of the young men's club. She is secretary to Judge H. H. Crawford of the industrial court.

NATIONAL GRANGE TO WICHITA

Decision to Hold Annual Meeting
There November 15 Announced.

Washington, March 7.—Decision to hold the annual meeting of the National Grange at Wichita, Kan., was reported today at a session here of the executive committee of the organization. The meeting will begin November 15 and continue ten days.

Arrangements for the meeting were entrusted to the Kansas Grange.

HARDING QUITS ADVISING.

No More Will Be Called With Senate
on Treaties, He Says.

Washington, March 7.—President Harding will take no further initiative in urging the senate to ratify the treaties negotiated by the armament conference, it was stated officially at the White House today.

It was said that the administration will co-operate closely with the senate during the time that it is studying the treaties, but that the president will not support administration policy, either to the senate or to the American people to support the pact.

SOLDIERS HAVE FIRST CHOICE.

Veterans Granted Compensation, Also
Get Homestead Priority.

Washington, March 7.—Ex-soldiers who are granted compensation by the government because of wounds or disability would be given priority rights under the homestead laws under a bill approved today by the senate public lands committee.

These rights have already been extended to soldiers discharged because of wounds.

WORRY OVER PACT

Stand of Minority on Four-
Power Treaty Undetermined.

Underwood Has Hard Time
Keeping Leadership.

MANY DEMOCRATS ARE ILL

Several Counted on to Oppose
Measure Are at Home.

Reverse of Action on Versailles
Treaty Is Seen.

Washington, March 7.—President Harding will lose no time in complying with the senate's request for information as to the status of the Lansing-Ishih agreement.

After a conference between the president and Senator Lodge at the White House this morning, it was stated the president probably would send a reply late this afternoon.

Most of the Democratic senators have banded together to defeat the treaty unless it is burdened with such reservations as the administration forces declare would virtually destroy it. In the league battle, which ended in the rejection of the Versailles pact, most of the Republican senators united in attaching a long string of reservations to the league covenant.

The Republicans are in the same position that the Democrats were in the League of Nations fight.

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The Republicans now have enough votes to command the majority necessary to defeat reservations, but they cannot force ratification of the treaty without the essential two-thirds vote without adequate Democratic support.

The revolt against Senator Underwood's leadership is growing. He admits it. Two of the Democratic senators whose support he counted are unavoidably absent—Owen of Oklahoma, who is in Europe, and Tamm of Florida, who was forced to return home by his wife's illness.

Word was received by Senator Lodge that Senator Crow, of Pennsylvania, will probably not be able to present when the vote on ratification occurs because of his continued illness. It is likely that the "pair" of Ohio, who has been arranged for Senator Harrell of Oklahoma, who will also be forced to absent himself because of ill health.

It is commonly accepted that he will retain leadership of the government until Irish legislation has been completed and possibly until the Genoa conference.

He is credited with an earnest desire to go to Genoa and will devote all his time to preparations for the trip during convalescence at his country home in Wales. Nowhere has it been reliably suggested that his illness would have collapsed long ago.

It is generally agreed by his friends that he needs a complete rest.

His supporters attribute his complaints to lack of loyalty by conservative conditionalists, essentially to nervous exhaustion. The prime minister has held close-lipped official offices for sixteen consecutive years, including the period of his prime ministerialship.

He stood up during the peace conference of the war and period of peace settlement and his admirers declare that any man of less hardy physique would have collapsed long ago.

They now hope that for a time at least he will be permitted to enjoy undisturbed quiet.

Westminster Gazette's political correspondent draws a picture of the pressure exerted on him at St. Paul's night's dinner to prevent his retirement and keep him within the coalition fold. This newspaper further says that six unionist colleagues united in efforts to bind him "safely in the prison house of coalition."

"When the prison gate was closed," the writer continues, "the prime minister went home exhausted, and if the truth be known, a thoroughly beaten man, for he lacked at the last moment courage to stake all upon his freedom."

HEAVIEST RAIN IN 23 YEARS.
Ocmulgee River at Macon, Georgia,
Out of Banks Again.

Macon, Ga., March 7.—After the heaviest rain in Macon blished 23 years ago, the Ocmulgee river was out of its banks early today and the government weather observer was preparing to issue flood warnings for both the Ocmulgee and Oconee rivers.

The rainfall from 3:25 p. m. yesterday until 6 o'clock this morning was 5.37 inches.

DAUGHTERTY'S OPINION ASKED.
President Wants to Know Rights of
Smoot and Burton for Commission.

Washington, March 7.—Attorney General Daugherty has been asked by President Harding for an opinion as to the right of Senator Smoot, Republican, Utah, and Representative Burton, Republican, Ohio, to sit on the allied debt refunding commission while retaining their seats in congress. It was announced today at the White House.

CONTINUE BANK FAILURE PROBE
Nearly a Score of Witnesses Before
Ocmulgee Grand Jury.

Ocmulgee, March 7.—Almost a score of witnesses were on hand here today when the district court grand jury continued its deliberations in the failure of the local Bank of Commerce.

There was no indication as to when a report might be expected.

U. S. SHIPPING BUSINESS TO HAVE A NEW MASTER

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Scheduled for Today.

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In computing the length of service, credit would be given time served up to July 1, 1918.

One of the more important proposals on which the majority has yet to act is that covering payments to immediate relatives of former service men who have died or who may die before the enactment of the legislation.

It is to be submitted to the entire committee and after formal approval, be reported to the house. It was indicated that its presentation in the house probably would be delayed for several days.

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